

INTERPRETER FOR THE DEAF

DO YOU LIKE:

- * Providing a valuable service?
- * Creative thinking?
- * Challenging work?
- * Using language?



CAREER LADDER and JOB OUTLOOK

The occupational career ladder for Interpreter for the Deaf incorporates several levels of certification and mastery as outlined by the [Utah Interpreter Program](#).

- Temporary Status: Interpreters may gain uncertified status and practice for one year in Utah.
- Novice Level Utah State Interpreter Certification: Two-year training programs prepare students to sit for Novice Level testing, after which the practitioner has up to three years to improve skills through on-the-job experience and mentoring. While a Novice, the interpreter may gain employment within the education system and expect to earn an entry wage between \$9 and \$16 per hour (2006 wage information). A Novice may also choose to work with private companies as a freelance interpreter, making approximately \$20 per hour for varying hours of work available.
- Intermediate Level Utah State Interpreter Certification: A Novice Level interpreter must either pass Intermediate Level within 3 years or give up their Novice Level Certificate. For an Intermediate Level Interpreter, public schools pay between \$12 and \$17 per hour and private companies pay approximately \$25+ per hour.
- Utah State Master Level Interpreter Certification or [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#) (RID) Certified Interpreter: Highest level of mastery on the career ladder.

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) states that Interpreters for the Deaf will continue to have favorable employment prospects.

+ [A private employer](#) in Utah has approached the Department of Workforce Services with a desire for 300 additional Intermediate Level Interpreters per year, offering salaries from \$35,000 - \$55,000 a year.

By Lynn Purdin
DWS Industry Lead

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Translates information simultaneously or consecutively from voice to signing and from signing to voice, maintaining message content, context, and style as much as possible
- Actively listens to statements of a speaker to translate immediately to other persons
- Relay concepts, ideas, and feelings between voice and signing languages, using American Sign Language and fingerspelling
- Reviews information on a subject to be discussed prior to an interpreting session
- Compiles terminology and information to be used in interpreting, including technical terms such as those for legal or medical material

INTERPRETER FOR THE DEAF



WORKING CONDITIONS

- Standing and/or sitting for periods of time
- Individual and team interpreting
- Fast-paced decision-making and adapting * **
- Repetitive motion in fingers, hands, and wrists *
- Variety of work settings: classrooms, medical settings, meeting rooms, conference centers, courtrooms, and call centers
- Requires being inside most of the time
- Irregular, sporadic hours
- Travel, some overnight
- Potentially stressful/sensitive subject matter and circumstances *
- Some self-employment, part-time work

EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS

- State and national interpreter certification
- Strong language skills
- Strong interpersonal skills **
- Good presentation of self *
- Knowledge of Deaf culture **
- Active listening and concentration skills
- Clear oral speech
- Familiarity with subject matter

FOR TRAINING

Training Programs: Salt Lake Community College
<http://www.slcc.edu>
Utah Valley State College
<http://www.uvsc.edu/asl>

Testing Certification & Ongoing Training: Utah Interpreter Program
<http://www.aslterps.utah.gov>

Related Job Info: <http://careers.utah.gov>
<http://jobs.utah.gov>

* Sanderson, G., Siple, L., and Lyons, B. Interpreting for Postsecondary Deaf Students: A report of the Nation Task Force on Quality of Services in the Postsecondary Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. Rochester, N.Y. : Northeast Technical Assistance Center, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1999.
<http://www.netac.rit.edu/publication/taskforce/interpreting/interpreting.html>

** Interpreting and Sign Language Resources - Exploring a Career in Interpreting, Ohio School for the Deaf, 2003.
<http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/islr/terpcareer.html>

Build your own

Interpreter for the Deaf

Career Ladder



Picture yourself here!

Occupation
Inexperienced wage per hour: \$ _____
Required training/experience: _____
Target completion date: _____
Training institution: _____
Funding: _____

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